

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claim 11 has been amended to recite a method for preparing a gold sulfide colloid by reacting a solution of an Au(I) complex represented by formula (2) and a solution containing a sulfur compound in a protective colloid solution. This amendment is supported by the specification, for example, in the paragraph bridging pages 39 and 40.

Claim 13 has been rewritten to recite a method of chemically sensitizing a silver halide emulsion.

Claims 24-41 have been added. Claims 24-26 and 39-41 correspond to original claims 6-8 but depend from claims 11 and 13, respectively. Claims 27-29 are supported by the specification, for example, at page 42, last paragraph. Claims 30-31 are supported by the specification, for example, at page 43, first paragraph. Claims 32-35 are supported by the specification, for example, at page 40, first full paragraph. Claim 36 is supported by the specification, for example, in the paragraph bridging pages 40 and 41. Claims 37-38 are supported by the specification, for example, in the paragraph bridging pages 41 and 42.

Claim 12 has been canceled. Claims 1-10 and 14-23 have previously been canceled.

No new matter has been added and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 11, 13 and 24-41 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly being based on insufficient disclosure.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are in full compliance with the § 112 requirements. Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 11, from which claim 13 depends, to recite a method for preparing a gold sulfide colloid by reacting a solution of an Au(I) complex represented by formula (2) and a solution containing a sulfur compound in a protective colloid solution. Additionally, claim 12 has been canceled. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

II. Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

At page 3 of the Office Action, claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Masutomi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,362,470), Yamashita et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,316,178) or Buds et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,783,372).

Applicants respectfully submit that present claim 13 is not anticipated by or rendered obvious over Masutomi et al, Yamashita et al or Buds et al. Specifically, present claim 13 recites a method of chemically sensitizing a silver halide emulsion using a gold sulfide colloid prepared according to the method of claim 11. Claim 11 recites a method for preparing a gold sulfide colloid comprising reacting a solution of an Au(I) complex represented by formula (2) with a solution containing a sulfur compound in a protective colloid solution. In contrast, none of the cited references disclose or suggest the use of a gold sulfide colloid prepared by the presently claimed method in their chemically sensitizing processes. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 24-41, which depend from claim 11, primarily or secondarily, are novel and patentable over the cited references at least for the reasons set forth above.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Fang Liu
Registration No. 51,283

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 30, 2005